

## NOTICE OF INDEPENDENT REVIEW DECISION

March 12, 2002

RE: Injured Worker:  
MDR Tracking #: M2-02-0462-01  
IRO Certificate #:

The independent review was performed by a \_\_\_\_\_ physician reviewer who is board certified in anesthesiology and pain management which is the same specialty as the treating physician. The \_\_\_\_\_ physician reviewer has signed a certification statement stating that no known conflicts of interest exist between him or her and any of the treating physicians or providers or any of the physicians or providers who reviewed the case for a determination prior to the referral to \_\_\_\_\_ for independent review. In addition, the reviewer has certified that the review was performed without bias for or against any party to this case.

The \_\_\_\_\_ physician reviewer has determined that the proposed care is not medically necessary for treatment of the patient's condition. Therefore, \_\_\_\_\_ agrees with the previous adverse determination. The specific reasons including the clinical basis for this determination are as follows:

This 53-year-old male sustained an injury in an auto accident in \_\_\_\_\_ 1997 when he hit his head and right shoulder on the car dashboard. The patient has been treated since 1997 and has undergone numerous facet injections and epidural steroid injections (ESI). The treating physician has recommended that the patient undergo target lysis of adhesions with the use of a spinal catheter of the cervical spine. The three previous ESI's have not provided the patient with long term relief. There is no data to support the rationale for catheter placement. This patient has not undergone surgery and the above mentioned procedure is intended for the post surgical patient who has adhesions in the epidural space. This does not appear to be present in this patient. Alternative treatments including rehabilitation of the cervical spine, joint mobilizations, chiropractic manipulations, and anti-inflammatory medications are recommended. Therefore, it is determined that the target lysis of adhesions with the use of a spinal catheter of the cervical spine is not medically necessary to treat this patient's condition.

This decision by the IRO is deemed to be a TWCC decision and order.

Sincerely,

Director of Medical Assessment